

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON THIRD WORLD AND PRESS FREEDOM:
YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION

REF: STATE 30920

1. THE EDWARD R. MURROW CENTER OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL SPONSOR A CONFERENCE ON THIRD WORLD AND PRESS FREEDOMS, MAY 12-13 IN NEW YORK. THE CONFERENCE IS ONE OF SEVERAL RESPONSES TO RISING MILITANCE WITHIN THIRD WORLD ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES AND COMMUNICATIONS USES. VOICES FROM LDCS RANGE FROM EXTREMISTS DEMANDING INSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON WESTERN-BASED INTERNATIONAL MEDIA TO MODERATES PRESSING FOR GREATER THIRD WORLD LEVERAGE IN INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE. THEY ARE UNITED IN DEPLORING OVERWHELMING IMBALANCE IN GLOBAL COMMUNICATION FLOWS AND IN DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA CAPACITIES. CENTER IS PART OF FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY AT TUFTS.

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2. MURROW CENTER SEES CONFERENCE AS ITS FIRST STEP IN BROAD-BASED STUDY OF THIS PROBLEM, EMBRACING: (1) OBJECTIVE EXAMINATION OF THE TECHNICAL, POLITICAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED; AND (2) COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE OPERATIONAL DATA OF THE NEWS AGENCIES (COVERAGE, MAN-

POWE RESOURCES, COSTS AND FINANCING, TRANSMISSION FACILITIES, REGULATION, ETC.). FINDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT RESEARCH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUTURE CONFERENCES OF UNESCO AND THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AS WELL.

3. CU ENDORSES CONFERENCE AIMS AND REGARDS IT AS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MOUNT MUCH-NEEDED DIALOGUE BETWEEN U.S. AND THIRD WORLD ACTORS TO ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN A MAJOR CONTROVERSY.

4. PHILIP HORTON, DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE PROJECT AT MURROW CENTER, HAS REQUESTED PERO IVACIC, TANJUG DIRECTOR, TO CONTRIBUTE ONE OF ABOUT TEN PAPERS TO BE GIVEN AT THE CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED. HORTON HOPES IVACIC WILL CONTRIBUTE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION AND DEFENSE OF THIRD WORLD PROPOSALS AND OF THE NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCY POOL. IF IVACIC ACCEPTS, HORTON HOPES HE WILL ATTEND AND PRESENT THE PAPER PERSONALLY. IVACIC RESPONSE IS OVERDUE AND HORTON HAS REQUESTED WE ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM HIS PARTICIPATION. HORTON ALSO EXPECTS RUDI STADJUHER OF THE UN OFFICE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, WHO HAS EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE.

5. THIRD POSSIBILITY IS IV NOMINEE MLADEN GAVRILOVIC.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY AT ITS DISCRETION CONTACT IVACIC TO INQUIRE WHETHER HE WILL PARTICIPATE AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO
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DO SO. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REASSURE HIM THAT CONFERENCE IS AIMED AT AVOIDING CONFRONTATION, AS IVACIC HAS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ON THIS SCORE. RATHER CONFERENCE IS INTENDED TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE IN WHICH BOTH HORTON AND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER AUTHORITATIVE YUGOSLAV VOICE WOULD BE WELCOME. FYI: MURROW CENTER HAS TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS.

7. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO CONTACT GAVRILOVIC TO INQUIRE WHETHER HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING CONFERENCE WHILE HE IS IN THE US. THIS PRESUMES, OF COURSE THAT GAVRILOVIC WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL DURING THIS PERIOD. PROGRAM AGENCY IS HOLDING APRIL 12 PROGRAM DATE (PER REFTEL) PENDING GAVRILOVIC CONFIRMATION.

8. REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE IVACIC (AND GAVRILOVIC) REACTION ASAP.
CHRISTOPHER

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